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#### **PCT**

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English

(26) Publication Language:

English

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9916911.2

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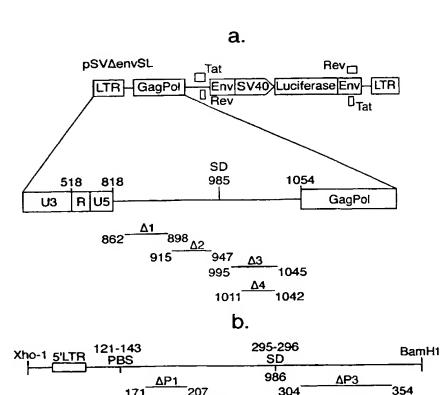
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- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): LEVER, Andrew

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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SIV-BASED PACKAGING-DEFFICIENT VECTORS



304

256

320

ΔΡ4

351

(57) Abstract: simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV) genome having mutation within the packaging signal such that viral RNA is not packaged within an SIV capsid is described. A viral vector comprises an SIV packaging signal and a heterologous gene capable of being expressed in the vector. The packaging defective SIV genome and viral vector may be co-transfected into a host cell to produce SIV virus particles capable of expressing a heterologous gene.

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ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA. MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,

IT. LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

#### Published:

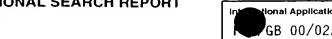
With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  N.79496B GCW  FOR FURTHER see Notification of Transmittal of International See (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as a possible (Form PCT/ISA/220) as a possible			
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)	
PCT/GB 00/02263	09/06/2000	09/06/1999	
Applicant			
SYNGENIX LIMITED			
This International Search Report has bee according to Article 18. A copy is being tra	n prepared by this International Searching Autl ansmitted to the International Bureau.	hority and is transmitted to the applicant	
This International Search Report consists  It is also accompanied by	of a total of5 sheets. a copy of each prior art document cited in this	report.	
Basis of the report			
	international search was carried out on the bases otherwise indicated under this item.	sis of the international application in the	
the international search w Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).	ras carried out on the basis of a translation of t	he international application furnished to this	
b. With regard to any nucleotide an was carried out on the basis of the		nternational application, the international search	
X contained in the internation			
filed together with the international application in computer readable form.			
furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.			
furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readble form.			
	osequently furnished written sequence listing d s filed has been furnished.	oes not go beyond the disclosure in the	
the statement that the info furnished	ormation recorded in computer readable form is	s identical to the written sequence listing has been	
2. X Certain claims were fou	nd unsearchable (See Box I).		
3. Unity of Invention is lac	king (see Box II).		
4. With regard to the title,			
the text is approved as su	bmitted by the applicant.		
	hed by this Authority to read as follows:		
SIV-BASED PACKAGING-DE	EFICIENT VECTORS		
5. With regard to the abstract,	handad bush a nastro		
	bmitted by the applicant. hed, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authorit date of mailing of this international search rep		
6. The figure of the <b>drawings</b> to be publ	·	1	
as suggested by the appli	·	None of the figures.	
X because the applicant fail		ا المالية الأسالية ا الأسالية الأسالية ا	
	characterizes the invention.		
_			



tional Application No GB 00/02263 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C12N15/86 C12N7/00 A61K48/00 C12N15/11

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

#### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\label{lem:minimum} \begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ \mbox{IPC 7} & \mbox{C12N} & \mbox{A61K} \end{array}$ 

IPC 7

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

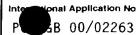
EPO-Internal, BIOSIS

1-6, 14-16,19
7-13,17, 18

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are listed in annex.		
<ul> <li>Special categories of cited documents:</li> <li>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</li> <li>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</li> <li>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</li> <li>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</li> <li>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</li> <li>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</li> </ul>	document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.  "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search  14 September 2000	Date of mailing of the international search report $29/09/2000$		
Name and mailing address of the ISA  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk  Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,	Authorized officer		
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Smalt, R		

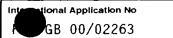
2





	P 3B 00/02263
ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
MCBRIDE M SCOTT ET AL: "The human immunodeficiency virus type 1 encapsidation site is a multipartite RNA element composed of functional hairpin structures."  JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY, vol. 70, no. 5, 1996, pages 2963-2973, XP002147392	1-6, 14-16,19
ISSN: 0022-538X the whole document	7-13,17, 18
BERKHOUT BEN ET AL: "Role of the DIS hairpin in replication of human immunodeficiency virus type 1." JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY, vol. 70, no. 10, 1996, pages 6723-6732, XP002147393	1-6, 14-16,19
the whole document	7-13,17, 18
MCCANN E M ET AL: "LOCATION OF CIS-ACTING SIGNALS IMPORTANT FOR RNA ENCAPSIDATION IN THE LEADER SEQUENCE OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TYPE 2" JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY, US, THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY, vol. 71, no. 5, 1997, pages 4133-4137, XP000909426 ISSN: 0022-5384	1,2,4-6, 14-16,19
page 4135, left-hand column, paragraph 2 -page 4136, left-hand column, paragraph 1	7-13,17, 18
WO 97 48277 A (GAGE FRED H ;SUHR STEVEN T (US); SALK INST FOR BIOLOGICAL STUDI (U) 24 December 1997 (1997-12-24) see whole document, particularly page 6, 2-3. the whole document	7-13,17, 18
WO 99 04026 A (CHIRON CORP) 28 January 1999 (1999-01-28) see whole document, particularly page 2, lines 22-24, page 6, lines 15-28, and claim 9.	7-13,17,
	MCBRIDE M SCOTT ET AL: "The human immunodeficiency virus type 1 encapsidation site is a multipartite RNA element composed of functional hairpin structures."  JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY, vol. 70, no. 5, 1996, pages 2963-2973, XP002147392  ISSN: 0022-538X the whole document  BERKHOUT BEN ET AL: "Role of the DIS hairpin in replication of human immunodeficiency virus type 1."  JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY, vol. 70, no. 10, 1996, pages 6723-6732, XP002147393  ISSN: 0022-538X the whole document  MCCANN E M ET AL: "LOCATION OF CIS-ACTING SIGNALS IMPORTANT FOR RNA ENCAPSIDATION IN THE LEADER SEQUENCE OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TYPE 2"  JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY, US, THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY, vol. 71, no. 5, 1997, pages 4133-4137, XP000909426  ISSN: 0022-538X page 4135, left-hand column, paragraph 1  WO 97 48277 A (GAGE FRED H ;SUHR STEVEN T (US); SALK INST FOR BIOLOGICAL STUDI (U) 24 December 1997 (1997-12-24) see whole document  WO 99 04026 A (CHIRON CORP) 28 January 1999 (1999-01-28) see whole document, particularly page 2, lines 22-24, page 6, lines 15-28, and claim 9.





		GB 00/02263
C.(Continua	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Α	RIZVI TAHIR A ET AL: "Simian immunodeficiency virus RNA is efficiently encapsidated by human immunodeficiency virus type 1 particles." JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY, vol. 67, no. 5, 1993, pages 2681-2688, XP000946026 ISSN: 0022-538X cited in the application the whole document	
T	LEVER A M L ET AL: "GENE THERAPY: FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE. LENTIVIRUS VECTORS FOR GENE THERAPY" BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY TRANSACTIONS, GB, COLCHESTER, ESSEX, vol. 27, no. 6, December 1999 (1999–12), pages 841–847, XP000915750 ISSN: 0300–5127 the whole document	

Infa

n on patent family members

Internationa	Application No
GB	00/02263

Patent document cited in search report	Patent document cited in search report			ratent family member(s)	Publication date	
WO 9748277	Α	24-12-1997	AU	3212197 A	07-01-1998	
WO 9904026	Α	28-01-1999	AU EP	8576298 A 1003894 A	10-02-1999 31-05-2000	

# **PCT**

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT 2001

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference N.79496B GCW			FOR FURTHER ACTION  See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IP)			
International application No. PCT/GB00/02263			International filing date (day/month/ 09/06/2000	'year)	Priority date (day/month/year) 09/06/1999	
	International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C12N15/86					
Applicant						
• •	NIX L	IMITED et al.				
		ational preliminary exami smitted to the applicant a		by this Inte	rnational Preliminary Examining Authority	
2. This	REPO	ORT consists of a total of	7 sheets, including this cover she	eet.		
	been a	amended and are the bas		ntaining red	n, claims and/or drawings which have ctifications made before this Authority e PCT).	
The	These annexes consist of a total of sheets.					
3. This	3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:					
I	$\boxtimes$	Basis of the report				
II		Priority				
111	_		pinion with regard to novelty, inve	entive step a	and industrial applicability	
IV		Lack of unity of inventio				
V	×		ns suporting such statement	oveity, inve	ntive step or industrial applicability;	
VI		Certain documents cite	đ			
VII		Certain defects in the in	ternational application			
VIII	VIII 🖾 Certain observations on the international application					
Date of submission of the demand			Date of co	ompletion of t	his report	
19/12/2000			03.09.200	)1		
	exam	g address of the international ining authority:	Authorized	d officer	STOP SOUS MILITARY	
European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656			Friedrict	h, C		
-		+49 89 2399 - 4465	·	a No. ±40 80	2300 7721	



International application No. PCT/GB00/02263

#### I. Basis of the report

1.	<ol> <li>With regard to the elements of the international application (Replacement sheets which have been furnished the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally file and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)): Description, pages:</li> </ol>					
	1-2	8	as originally filed			
	Cla	ims, No.:				
	1-1	9	as originally filed			
	Dra	wings, sheets:				
	1/7-	-7/7	as originally filed			
	Sec	Sequence listing part of the description, pages:				
	1-3,	as originally filed				
2.	. With regard to the <b>language</b> , all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.					
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:			available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:			
		the language of a	translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).			
		the language of pu	iblication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).			
		the language of a 55.2 and/or 55.3).	translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule			
3.	With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:					
	$\boxtimes$	contained in the in	ternational application in written form.			
	$\boxtimes$	filed together with	the international application in computer readable form.			
		furnished subsequ	ently to this Authority in written form.			
		furnished subsequ	ently to this Authority in computer readable form.			
			t the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in oplication as filed has been furnished.			
		The statement that listing has been ful	t the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence rnished.			
4.	The	amendments have	resulted in the cancellation of:			



*	
International application No.	PCT/GB00/02263

		the description,	pages:				
		the claims,	Nos.:				
		the drawings,	sheets:				
5.			established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have bee				
		(Any replacement sh report.)	neet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this				
6.	Add	dditional observations, if necessary:					
IH.	Nor	n-establishment of o	pinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability				
1.			e claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non- ally applicable have not been examined in respect of:				
		the entire internation	al application.				
	×	claims Nos. 17-18.					
be	caus	se:					
	☒		application, or the said claims Nos. 17-18 relate to the following subject matter which nternational preliminary examination ( <i>specify</i> ):				
			as or drawings (indicate particular elements below) or said claims Nos. are so unclear binion could be formed (specify):				
		the claims, or said claced could be formed.	aims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion				
		no international sear	ch report has been established for the said claims Nos				
2.	and		I preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide nce listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative				
		the written form has i	not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.				
			le form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.				

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;

citations and explanations supporting such statement





International application No. PCT/GB00/02263

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes:

Claims 1-6, 11-19

No:

Claims 7-10

Inventive step (IS)

Yes: No:

Claims

Claims 1-6, 11-19

Industrial applicability (IA)

Yes:

Claims 1-16, 19

No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations see separate sheet

#### VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made: see separate sheet



Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: Rizvi, TA et al., 1993. Simian immunodeficiency virus RNA is efficiently encapsidated by human immunodeficiency virus type 1 particles. JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY 67:2681-2688.
- D2: Rud, EW et al., 1994. Molecular and biological characterization of simian immunodeficiency virus macaque strain 32H proviral clones containing nef size variants. J Gen Virol 75:529-43. (cited by the applicant)
- D3: Naldini, L et al., 1996. In vivo gene delivery and stable transduction of nondividing cells by a lentiviral vector. Science 272:263-267. (The document was not cited in the international search report. A copy is appended hereto.)
- D4: Berkhout, B et al., 1996. Role of the DIS hairpin in replication of human immunodeficiency virus type 1. JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY 70: 6723-6732.
- D5: McCann EM et al., 1997. Location of cis-acting signals important for RNA encapsidation in the leader sequence of human immunodeficiency virus type 2. JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY 71:4133-4137.

#### Introduction

The present application refers to packaging deficient SIV viruses (claims 1-6), the generation and use of viral vectors comprising an SIV packaging sequence (claims 7-13, and 17), and sense or antisense packaging sequences from SIV for treatment or prophylaxis of SIV or HIV infection (claims 14-16, and 18-19). Since vectors comprising an SIV packaging sequence and gene delivery systems based on other lentiviruses are part of the prior art, objections are raised concerning novelty (claims 7-10) and inventive step (claims 1-6 and 11-19). No opinion regarding industrial applicability is formulated concerning subject-matter related to the treatment of the human or animal body (claims 17-18).

#### Re Item III

## Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

Claims 17-18 relate to subject-matter considered by this authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv), PCT (the treatment of the human or animal body).



Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with regard to industrial applicability concerning subject-matter of these claims according to Art.34(4)(a)(i), PCT.

#### Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

- Novelty, Art.33(1) and (2), PCT 1.
- Claims 7-10 concern vectors comprising an SIV packaging signal and a heterologous gene expressed by said vector. D1 discloses such vectors, namely pTR150 and 170, which comprise an SIV leader sequence and a heterologous gene (Hyg<sup>R</sup>). Therefore subject-matter of claims 7-10 is not new according to Art.33(1) and (2), PCT.

#### 2. Inventive Step, Art.33(1) and (3), PCT

- 2.1. Claims 1-6 concern packaging deficient SIV genomes with mutations or deletions between the PBS and the gag initiation codon. D2, which discloses the sequence of a wild-type SIV genome, may be considered the closest prior art and the provision of a packaging deficient SIV genome the technical problem. It is known from prior art that packaging sequences of the related HIV-1 and -2 are located between the PBS and the gag initiation codon (see Fig.1 in D4, abstract of D5 and the description of the present application on page 23, lines 9-14). D1 provides strong evidence that also in SIV the analogous sequence is important for encapsidation (see Fig.2 and Table 1). Although one cannot predict the exact site or size of the SIV packaging signal, it requires not more than standard technical procedures known to the skilled person in the art to achieve a solution to the present problem by simply generating deletion mutants and test them for packaging efficiency, as has been done previously for HIV. Thus subjectmatter of claims 1-6 is not considered inventive in the sense of Art.33(3), PCT.
- 2.2. Claims 11-13 and 17 concern the generation of an SIV virus encoding a heterologous gene and a pharmaceutical composition comprising said virus. D3 discloses a process of generating an HIV virus encoding either luciferase or βgalactosidase, comprising the use of a packaging deficient HIV construct and a construct comprising the 5' leader of HIV (see figure 1 in D3). In the light of the closest prior art the technical problem is considered the provision of a vector system analogous



to the HIV-system disclosed in D3, based on the genome sequence of SIV. Regarding the lack of novelty or inventive step of the subject-matter of claims 1-10, the solution to this problem is a mere substitution of the components of the HIV vector system with those of the related SIV without the generation of surprising effects. Thus subjectmatter of claims 11-13, and 17 is not considered inventive in the sense of Art.33(3), PCT.

2.3. Claims 14-16 and 18-19 concern the treatment or prophylaxis of SIV or HIV with a sense or antisense packaging sequence of SIV. The treatment of cells with sense or antisense sequences to compete with or abolish the function of essential nucleic acid sequences is considered well known in the art at the time of the present application. To apply said methodology on SIV or HIV packaging sequences may be considered the technical problem. The solution of said problem is not more than a straightforward extrapolation from the prior art to SIV or HIV sequences of predictable function, which will not elicit unexpected effects. Thus subject-matter of claims 14-16 and 18-19 is not considered inventive in the sense of Art.33(3), PCT.

#### Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

#### 1. Clarity of Claims and Support by the Description, Art.6, PCT

- 1.1. Claim 1 does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT in that the matter for which protection is sought is not clearly defined. The claim attempts to define the subject-matter in terms of the result to be achieved which merely amounts to a statement of the underlying problem. The technical features necessary for achieving this result should be added (see also PCT Guidelines, III-4.7).
- 1.2. Claims 7 and 14 refer to an SIV packaging sequence without providing technical features defining said sequence. Thus said claims are not clear according to Art.6 and Rule 6.3(b), PCT (see also PCT Guidelines, III-4.4).

#### **ENT COOPERATION TREA** Ρ

### From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

#### **PCT**

#### NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

To:

Commissioner **US** Department of Commerce United States Patent and Trademark Office, PCT 2011 South Clark Place Room CP2/5C24

Arlington, VA 22202

**ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE** Date of mailing (day/month/year) in its capacity as elected Office 09 February 2001 (09.02.01)

International application No. Applicant's or agent's file reference N.79496B GCW PCT/GB00/02263 Priority date (day/month/year) International filing date (day/month/year) 09 June 1999 (09.06.99) 09 June 2000 (09.06.00) **Applicant** 

LEVER, Andrew et al 1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made: | X | in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on: 19 December 2000 (19.12.00) in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on: 2. The election was

Authorized officer

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

was not

Olivia TEFY

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Rule 32.2(b).